



Literacy Activities for Students in Preschool through Second Grade

For students, summer is a time for fun and play. It is also the time when children's learning slides. Research (Brace, 2002a) shows that during the summer, students forget many of the reading and math skills learned during the school year. This "summer slide" requires schools and teachers to spend valuable time during the next school year helping students "re-learn" lost skills, and it greatly reduces the time available to master new skills and subjects.

Family FUNdamental activities reinforce Governor Granholm's and the State Board of Education's commitment to early learning, reading and quality education.

Stop Summer Learning Decline

A child's ability to succeed in school takes a partnership—one that begins at home and continues in school. To increase learning and stop the summer learning decline, the Michigan Department of Education has developed summer literacy activities for preschool, prekindergarten, and early elementary students to practice at home.

These activities are being distributed on a pilot basis as part of our Family FUNdamentals program and are aligned with the Michigan Curriculum Framework and the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile.

Top Ten Reasons to Keep Kids Learning in Summer

1. Education is the key to achievement and success.
2. Parents who are actively involved in their children's learning at home help their children become more successful learners.
3. Stimulating children's brain development all summer brings big benefits in the fall.
4. The average student forgets a substantial number of reading and math skills learned during the school year.
5. Losses are greater among lower-income students who cannot attend summer enrichment programs, travel or take advantage of structured learning opportunities.
6. Much of the achievement gap between advantaged and less advantaged students occurs in the summer months.
7. Children who lose ground over the summer, have a difficult time in "catching up" during the following school year.
8. Time spent on "re-learning" substantially reduces the valuable classroom time needed to master new skills and subjects.
9. Steady improvement, throughout the year means that children will meet the high education standards supported by Michigan's State Board of Education and will assure students have the educational foundation needed to succeed in school and life.
10. Summer is an ideal time for families to provide the time, learning experiences and practice to reinforce learning.



What's in Family FUNdamentals for Summer Learning?

FAMILY FUNdamentals for Summer Learning contains:



- √ Over 200 summer literacy activities families can do together to maintain and increase learning for pre school, prekindergarten, and early elementary students. Literacy activities:
 - Contain varied degrees of difficulty and amount of time required.
 - Are centered around the five essential components of reading instruction including phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, fluency and vocabulary and separated by grade level.
- √ Dear Parent Letter from Teachers.
- √ The Ten Top Reasons for Summer Learning.
- √ How Parents Can Help Children Glide into Summer.
- √ What Does it Take to Become a Reader?
- √ Literacy Learning At Home, In the Sun, On the Run.
- √ Resources for More Ideas.

When should these activities be used?

All students will benefit from the additional practice they will get from using these activities. However, the activities will be most effective if they are part of an ***individualized instruction plan*** that matches interventions to assessed need, as revealed through your year-end assessments.

In September, schools will be receiving an additional Family FUNdamentals Compact Disk (CD) containing hundreds of school year take home activities, as well as, math and literacy summer learning activities. The fall CD is made possible through a partnership with the Michigan Department of Education, Wayne RESA and Partnership for Learning.

Where can I get the Summer Learning Activities?

Copies of the summer activities are available to download in Adobe PDF on MDE's web site on the Educator or Curriculum pages at: **<http://www.michigan.gov/mde>**. For additional information contact Jan Ellis, (517) 373-9391.